

6

Remarks

Claim 32 is objected for lack of antecedent basis. This has been corrected as suggested by the Examiner through changing the dependency of claim 32 to claim 31. Claim 31 stands rejected as failing to further limit base claim 59. This language problem has been corrected in the instant amendment. Review and acceptance is requested.

Claims 30 through 32, 38 through 42, 44, 47, 48, 58 and 59 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Bingham '320. Claim 43 stands rejected under 35 USC as being unpatentable over Bingham in view Dang and claims 45, 46, and 54 under Bingham for the reasons mentioned in the previous Office Action.

In responding to these rejections, the Applicant has amended claim 59 to explicitly exclude the possibility that the covering device has additional means for securing the device to a vehicle. The Applicant attempted to limit the claim language in this fashion in the previous response through use of the words "consisting essentially of". The Examiner disagreed, stating that the addition of straps would not materially effect the invention as claimed and cited claim 39 as evidence thereof. Due to this view of the Examiner, it has become necessary for the Applicant to explicitly exclude the use of additional means for securing the device to the vehicle. With regard to claim 39, that claim does not entail means from mounting the covering device to the vehicle, rather means for connecting sections of the covering device to each other.

7

The invention as claimed clearly recites a simplified covering device which does not require further devices for attachment to the vehicle. The invention is therefore distinguished from all the prior art of record, since all prior art necessarily involves additional means to attach the cover to a vehicle. The Applicant requests entry of amendment, since no new search is required and since the application is in a position for allowance.

No new matter has been added in this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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